TUESDAY, JULY 13, 1868.

Business Notice.

Delsware, Maryland, her vas. 1858.—If.
Wassiavrow, March 23, 1858.—If.
Wassiavrow, march 23, 1858.—If.
The foregoing notice is not intended to include any agents or collects that we now employ or have heresofore employed in this city, but as that we now employ or have heresofore employed in this city, but as that we now employ or have heresofore employed in this city, but as that we now employed and service in other parts of the none only who have performed such service in other parts of the none only who have

AMERICAN POLITICS IN EUROPE-WHAT WE HAVE DONE.

The public law of the world, like the written or statute law of the various States, requires constant examination, revisal, and interpretation. The principles of international intercourse are by no means so accurately defined, and the rights of parties so definitely adjusted thereunder, as to admit of no rational dispute between them. Nations, like individuals, are constantly changing their relations to each other, thus affecting great interests which pernaps have recently grown into being, and demandin to be heard before the tribunals of universal authority. The short career of this government, which from powerless infancy has grown up to the colossal strength of giant manhood within the narrow peried of three-quarters of a century, is sufficient to prove the justice of these observations. We comenced life at a distance so great from the common centres of civilization that, whatever might have been our real promise, it was next to impossible to exert over the government of the world any considerable influence. We were admitted, to be sure, into the family of States, but expected rather to obey than to have any voice in giving laws to our power ful associates. An accurate examination of our re lations with the various States of Europe for many years after the birth of the republic will prove that we were merely endured without being heeded. So late as 1815, when the sovereigns of Europe met in Congress at Vienna to rearrange the territorial limits of the different nations, and to define and settle the tenures of governors, we were not even noticed or regarded, in truth, as having any rightful voice in such matters. So far as the continent of Europe was concerned, extending to the semi-barbarous people of Asia, we were content with the principle of non-intervention, which was thus forced upon us. But we had an interest, nevertheless, as a growing maritime, commercial power, in the habits of several European States, and especially in the laws which should govern the public waters of the world. We found, for instance, the Mediterranean sea, an important arm of the ocean almost exclusively in the possession of the barbarians living on the south shores of those waters, who had estab lished a grand system of piracy, and had compelled all the nations to pay tribute to them. England was unquestionably more interested as a trading people than any other in arresting such a system and in bringing the pirates who enforced it to a sense of their obligations to the rest of mankind. Our transatlantic brethren, now so sensitive to the operations of an illicit trade and to the prostitution of flags to piratical uses, tamely submitted to put her whole commerce on the Mediterranean subject to the payment of tribute to organized outlaws. Having ample power to put them down, we submit that England became responsible for their conduct to some extent.

The government of the United States, then a feeble naval power, ordered its forces to the Barbary States, and instructed its commanders not only to resist the payment of tribute, but to make open war even to extermination of the pirates of Algiers, Tripoli, and Tunis. This was the first great work of intervention of America in the public law of Europe ; for it was a part of the public law to accept the system of illegal exaction and piracy which at the time existed on the Barbary coast. We need not say that Algerine tributes and the work of piracy against which we waged a fearful and successful war ceased.

The next act of intervention in the government of Europe was the interference of the United States with the Quintuple treaty, which we regarded as no ess than the combination of five of the great Powers, to enforce upon the high seas, a special police, regardless and in violation of our rights as an independent State. The vigorous, timely, and effective action of the present veteran head of the State Department frustrated the plans of the coalition, and left him to consummate his noble work by closing the matter sixteen years afterwards, by direct negotiations with the government which is regarded as the originator of the Quintuple treaty.

We had long claimed in this country that "free ships make free goods"—a principle of maritime law which is as much to be commended for its justice as for its influence in modifying the horrors of war-limiting its evils to the parties actually belligerent. When the great struggle between France and England against Russia commenced, acting the part of a neutral State, and knowing that legitimate ly the contest in question must be confined wholly to the land, we took an early occasion to de mand of the belligerents a recognition of this principle; and it was promptly conceded. We need not say that the commerce of England and France were equally interested with our own in this result.

The next step involving the intervention of the United States in the affairs of Europe was to protest against, and finally overthrow, the long-standing but wholly indefensible claim of the Danish governme in exacting tribute of American vessels and those of other States in the navigation of public waters. This case was extremely complicated, the claim itself to demand and exact the payment of certain dues resting upon proscription, which had been acknowledged by nearly all the governments in the world, our own included. The kingdom of Denmark, too was closely identified with several of the leading monarchs of Europe; and it looked very much like presumption for the United States to undertake the work of resisting an exaction of such hoary age and so respectable in the party enforcing it. Denmark however, had no earthly right to enclose the sea within her political jurisdiction, and this was felt by nearly all the parties interested. The Danish Sound dues have been abolished.

The next, and by far the most important work of reform instituted and effectually established by the federal government, was the enforcement of the great

an absolute right to the use of the unappropriated trais, that the flag covers the cargo, was recognised parts of the eccan for our navigation. This right by the British government during the recent war. England denied, claiming that the seas were infested with pirates who were in the habit of using our flag, and that she must exercise the simple right to visit of the season of the simple right to visit of the simple right to visit of the simple right to the simple right to simple right to the simple right to our merchant ships for the purpose of testing the gen- vised upon all questions of public interest; and it is our merchant ships for the purpose of testing the gen-uineness of the flag and the legality of the voyage. A great contest, dipping into one war and threat-ening the peace of the two countries, arose between us and England upon this subject. We, however, never yielded our position, and the occasion dement the duty of enforcing them is necessarily demanding it, we sent our ships-of-war to enforce the principle of immunity we had laid down. The ques-tion thus being brought to a practical issue, with the forces of the two powers ready for collision upon government, are entitled to no support, and will rethe positions of their respective governments, Great | ceive none from us. We have no faith or confidence Britain, on a calm review of the whole case, in a whatever in the republican forces. We believe their frank and most manly way promptly notified us of organization to be a fraud upon the country; and the disavowal of their pretensions and of their de-termination to withdraw their naval forces from the fraud at the expense of the integrity of our governscene of strife. This is the last and the greatest tri- ment. Under these circumstances, we uphold and umph of America over opinions on the other side of maintain the democratic party, relying upon its men the water.

In all these acts of our government it is impossible not to acknowledge that we have been wholly in the right.

MR. DOUGLAS AT CHICAGO.—HE IS A DOUGLAS

There was a time not long ago when it was en to hear praises of the ability, heroism, and fidel ity of the honorable senator from Illinois. He was favorite of the great democracy, and exhibited in efence of the cause decided ingenuity and talent. That time has passed. We do not recollect the laurels won by the senator in the debates of the late session. Much was expected of him as he led off with a grand flourish of trumpets in opposition to his old friends; all were disappointed in the results of that great controversy. It was manifest Mr Douglas's old enemies, who burned him in effigy tw years before, and now his new friends, only wished use him to break up the democracy, not to build up republicanism. They could afford, however, to flatter him, as the article was cheap and easily be stowed. At length, so we thought, Mr. Senator Douglas came to realize his true position before the coun try. He had abandoned a great many friends, more than there are in the whole republican family. He could scarcely have made a good transaction. He felt the loss of those who had supported him and saw the difference between that kind of friendship and what he was getting by supporting the republi cans. Hence, lately, we have had mysterious givings-out that Mr. Douglas would go home and again by bold declaration, reunite himself with the demo cratic party.

We have at length the telegraphic report of his

speech at Chicago. It may be imperfect in point of natter-it may not embrace all Mr. Douglas said. We sincerely trust it is, that much has been left out and much reported which Mr. Douglas did not say. The latter would be a most desirable amendment of the speech; for what is reported to have been said will greatly astonish the country. Mr. Douglas, we fear, has mistaken a demonstration in his behalf in two or three cities for popular support and confilence by the whole country. He arraigns the democratic party of last winter, and declares that he and his friends defeated and prostrated it in the passage of the English bill, which he and his friends opposed and voted against! The English bill was all wrong, and voted egainst! The English bill was all wrong,
Mr. Douglae could not cadorsa it; he voted against
it; it became, nevertheless, a law. That law then
became a triumph to Mr. Douglas! There are some
things too deep for ordinary minds; and this was
never made clearer than in the report of Mr. Douglas's speech. What was the object of the senator?
Did he wish to reopen the old wounds? Did he desire to set up for himself on the small capital of two
or three public receptions? Has his vanity so overor three public receptions? Has his vanity so overcome his judgment that he can for a moment suppose about to stultify themselves, condemn their conduct mous of all abolition measures, the Crittendenamendment, which Mr. Douglas now so warmly approves?

to forget what passed last winter. He was inter ested in forgetting it. The country was all ready to recognise and endorse his defective memory in this respect. We believe Mr. Douglas himself really desired to obliterate the infinite blunders of the late session. But he must vindicate his consistency. He must go down to his people and show them that he was quite immaculate—that he never made blun ders; and in that act he committed the greatest blunder of his life. We will not indulge in further comment in anticipation of the authoritative publication of his speech.

THE UNION AND THE HERALD'S "HISTORIC

The Herald makes us to be so much an organ of the administration as to render our opinions worthess. That sinks us deeper into party matters than we care to go, and a trifle further down in the scale of moral accountability than is consistent with our ideas of public journalism. But we, too, have often expressed "historic doubts," perhaps, in opposition to the views of the government. A few such cases would give us great credit with our cotemporary, whose opinion of the Union is a matter just now of very inconsiderable importance. We are especially rejoiced that the Herald has found a "middle passage" on the search question, trusting to its pilot to bring him out with colors flying into the independent anchorage just outside the buoys. Meanwhile we must adhere to the repeated declarations of the British and American governments, that the former has fully relinquished its claim to visit our merchant vessels. If in this we exhibit an unduc dependence upon facts, and remain quite indifferent to the utterance of the Herald's "historic doubts," we trust we shall be pardoned by the country. Since the subject is before us, perhaps, our cotemporary would not take it amiss if we inquire whether there are any well-grounded "historic doubts" of the abolition of the Sound Dues by the Danish government? Then, again, it might be well to inquire whether England conceded, at the commencement of the late Crimean war, that "free ships make free goods?" The impression in diplomatic circles—where we confess there is too offen.

Markets.

NEW YORK, July 12.—Cotton is buoyant—sales of 4,500 bales; plands 5-16 cent. Flour is firm—sales of 4,500 bales; plands 5-16 cent. Flour is firm—sales of 4,500 bales; plands 5-16 cent. Flour is firm—sales of 4,500 bales; plands 5-16 cent. Flour is firm—sales of 4,500 bales; plands 5-16 cent. Flour is firm—sales of 4,500 bales; plands 5-16 cent. Flour is firm—sales of 4,500 bales; plands 5-16 cent. Flour is firm—sales of 4,500 bales; plands 5-16 cent. Flour is firm—sales of 4,500 bales; plands 5-16 cent. Flour is firm—sales of 4,500 bales; plands 5-16 cent. Flour is firm—sales of 4,500 bales; plands 5-16 cent. Flour is firm—sales of 4,500 bales; plands 5-16 cent. Flour is firm—sales of 4,500 bales; plands 5-16 cent. Flour is firm—sales of 300 bales; plands 5-16 cent. Flour is firm—sales of 4,500 bales; plands 5-16 cent. Flour is firm—sales of 4,500 bales; plands 5-16 cent. Flour is firm—sales of 4,500 bales; plands 5-16 cent. Flour is firm—sales of 4,500 bales; plands 5-16 cent. Flour is firm—sales of 4,500 bales; plands 5-16 cent. Flour is firm—sales of 4,500 bales; plands 5-16 cent. Flour is firm—sales of 4,500 bales; plands 5-16 cent. Flour is firm—sales of 4,500 bales; plands 5-16 cent. Flour is firm—sales of 4,500 bales; plands 5-16 cent. Flour is firm—sales of 4,500 bales; plands 5-16 cent. Flour is firm—sales of 4,500 bales; plands 5-16 cent. Flour is firm—sales of 4,500 bales; plands 5-16 cent. Flour is firm—sales of 4,500 bales; plands 5-16 cent. Flour is firm—sales of 4,500 bales; plands 5-16 cent. Flour is firm—sa matic circles -where we confess there is too ofter reason for the expression of "historic doubts"....

volved upon individuals. We are not, then, partias more honest, patriotic, and devoted to the high interests of the Union. On this subject, at least, we

entertain no "historic doubts," leaving that species of political infidelity exclusively to the Herald. THE CURRENCY OF THE UNITED STATES.

We publish in another column the decision of the Treasury Department in relation to the computation of the salaries of foreign ministers and others, and fixing the value of foreign coins in the currency of the United States. It is generally supposed that the value of foreign coins is fixed by law, but such is not the case. The coins of foreign countries are ot a legal tender in the payment of debts, though they are taken at their valuation at the mint. In view of these facts, we regard the table annexed as especially important.

CLEANSING COTTON SEED.

An intelligent correspondent, residing at Antwerp, writes under date of May 19th, 1858, that a machine for leansing cotton-seed has lately been invented, and is low in operation in that city. From two to three tons of seed can be cleaned per day by a machine of fourcorse power, with the assistance of three persons. The cotton surrounding the seed is taken clean off, and can be sold to carpet-manufacturers and paper-makers at from thirty to fifty francs the one hundred kilogrammes. sold for the same price as other cakes of oleaginous seeds. The cost of the machinery is said not to be ex ensive. This is an important invention and promise

NEWS BY TELEGRAPH Three Days Later from Europe.---Arrival of the Canada off Cape Bace.

the Canada off Cape Race.

Sr. John's, July 12.—The Cunard steamship Canada arrived off Cape Race yesterday, and was intercepted by the news-yacht of the Associated Press.

The general news is but of little importance. The bill admitting Jews to the House of Commons had passed to a second reading in the House of Lords by 46 majority.

Parliament would be prorogued before the end of laboratory.

July.

The Spanish ministry had resigned, and a new one ap-pointed, with O'Donnell as Minister of Foreign Affaire COMMERCIAL.

Cotton-sales of the week 77,000 bales, including 11.00 to speculators and 8,000 to exporters. All qualities had advanced \(\frac{1}{2} \) a 3-16; and some circulars say \(\frac{1}{2} \) a \(\frac{1}{2} \)d.

Later from Utah.

come his judgment that he can for a moment suppose that nineteen-twentieths of the democratic party are about to stultify themselves, condemn their conduct ast winter, and come out now for that most infamous of all abolition measures, the Crittendenamendment, which Mr. Douglas now so warmly approves?

We say in all candor to the Illinois senator that We say in all candor to the Illinois senator that the army in readiness to repel any treachery. He had issued a proclamation to the people, in which he stated that the army is now as ready to afford assistance as it was to oppose them when in rebellion. The troops

S ill Later from Utah.

Sr. Louis, July 12.—Utah dates of the 19th are received. Gen. Johnston was met at Echo Canon, fifty miles from Salt Lake. Brigham Young had a conference with Governor Cuming at Salt Lake City, but the result was unknown. Captain Marcy was left in command at Fort Bridger. The Leavenworth correspondent mentions a report that the Commissioners had concluded a treaty of peace with the Mormons.

The Cable Fleet Probably Seen.

Sr. Jomss, July 12.—The steamtug Blue Jacket, from Liverpool, has arrived here, and reports having seen on the 24th ult. a large and small steamer, both British, in lat. 510 32', long. 32'. She also saw on the same evening a large steamer bearing down for the others, but could not make out whether the last was Inglish or American. American.

The Red Jucket reports the weather hazy, with a strong westerly swell, but continued moderate and thick until the 3d, when strong southwesterly gales set in.

Naval Intelligence.

New York, July 11.—The storeship Relief arrived this afternoon from Aspinwall via Key West, with invalids from the Pacific squadron.

The departure of the Relief left not a single vessel of

The departure of the Rolied left not a single vessel of war at Aspinwall. The inhabitants were in constant fear of an outbreak among the negroes.

The Wabash, Colorado, Macedonian and Dolphin were at Key West. On the 3d the Colorado broke her main crank, and will come north for repairs. The Jamestown was off Havana with eighteen cases of yellow fever. The Plymouth and Arctic were cruising about Cuba.

Rain Storm.

New York, July 11.—This has been the hottest day of the season all north and east of this place. A very severe rain storm prevailed in Albany, in consequence of which the streets were impassable in the course of half

Many trees were uprocted, chimneys shattered and awnings torn. The country for several miles off experienced a terrific hall storm, and did considerable damage.

deciring of the freedom of the seas. What we claimed was that, as an independent State, we had

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

New York, July 11, 1858. The Hon. John B. Haskin, the notorious misrepresentative of Westchester county, is daily acquiring new and bitter experience of the miserable consequences of his political treachery. The editors of the New York Courier and Enquirer and ci the New York Tribune (both recreants in Westchester county) have commenced to spar about the expediency of his being supported for re-election by the black republicans; and while the former, very properly recognizes as a condition Tribune (both recreants in Westchester county) have commenced to spar about the expediency of his being supported for re-election by the black republicans; and while the former, very properly, requires, at a condition precedent to the republicans now thinking of supporting the unhappy Haskin, that he should pledge himself to "act with the republican party in the organization of the House of Representatives, and support for the presidency the nominee of the republican national convention of 1860," the latter urges him to make no pledges under pain of the Tribune's displeasure. He is very shortly to receive an opportunity "to put himself right," in answer to a letter which is to be sent to him "by some of our republican friends." General Webb, who is much spoken of as the republican nominee for the representation of the 9th congressional district, has a good right to know whether the man for whom he is to forego a much-coveted distinction is worthy of such a great sacrifice. His doubts may be insulting to Haskin. He has been so republican during the last session of Congress, and has been so willing and attentive in his performance of the dirtiest portions of the black-republican dirty work, that it really seems cruel to force him to bare his shoulder and expose the horrible D which the democracy have burnt upon him, for the mere love of exposing his disgrace. The Tribune B far more charitable. It says, in effect: "Never mind, John; that impudent general wants to hurt your feelings, and make the people laugh at you; but I do not want you to answer any questions or do anything that you don't like. You must be a good boy; do not cry, but don't attempt to hope that you are going to get black-republican support." Poor Haskin! with General Webb pulling him one way and Horace Greeley the other, and his former friends kicking him out from among them, ha is certainly not to be envised. The General has only to apply to the democratic party. The General has only to apply to the democratic party, to relieve himself of all an

Mr. Greeley, it will not be because the democrats stepped in to his rescue.

The call for the republican State convention just issued for the 8th of September reminds us that the campaign will soon be opened. The democratic committee has not yet issued a call, but the convention will probably be held in the first half of September. Several candidates have been proposed for the republican gubernatorial nomination, most of whom have promptly declined. In democratic circles no candidates have been publicly suggested, and it is not likely that any serious effort will be made at present in behalf of any gentleman who may be thought of for that position. The only name which I have heard mentioned is that of the Hon. William Kelley, of Dutchess county. It is not, I think, known that he desires, or would accept, the position, but his high personal and political character would render his nomination highly creditable to the democratic party. Mr. Kelly was formerly, in connexion with his brother, the late lamented Robert Kelley, a merchant in this city. After acquiring a handsome fortune he wisely retired in early life to the country, establishing himself at Rhinebeck, on the Hudson, where he lives in elegant and modest dignity, devoting such time as is not demanded by the public to the cultivation of a large farm, in which he has been remarkably successful—so much so as to be highly distinguished as a farmer and breeder of tine stock. Mr. Kelley has been a prominent actor in the New York State Agricultural Society, of which he was finally called to the presidency. He was also a member of the last senate, and one of the leading men in that body. As a man of unyleiding personal and political integrity, of cultivated manners, and modest, unpretending usefulness, he has few superiors, while his talents are believed to fully qualify him for the office in question.

The late appointments by the President for this State seem to be generally well received. The selection of Mr. Comstock, of the Atlas and Argus, as postmaster of in to his rescue.

The call for the republican State convention just iss

edgment highly appropriate, and the appointment one of the most popular acts of the President, touching the political affairs of New York.

The De Rivière-Blount romance in reality continues to excite the curiosity and wonder of the public. The gallant Zouave lies perdu somewhere in New Jersey, and Mrs. Blount continues to inhabit the Hotel Napoleon, vowing that de Rivière is a puragon of virtue—injured perhaps, but yet virtuous—and that he must and shall marry her daughter, notwithstanding his former connubial entangiements and Colonel Blount's anger. The general impression is not favorable to the Zouave, and I own that all I can learn is far from creditable to him either as an officer or as a gentleman.

The city inspector reports that there have been 442 deaths during the past week, being a decrease of five as compared with the previous week, and an increase of twenty-two as compared with the corresponding week last year. The following is the inspector's tabular statement:

113 The money market is in a very dull and uninteresting condition. Business is quite at a stand still, and, even at the present exceedingly low rates of discount, it is next to impossible to place money in the market. Nominally the market rate for money on call is 4 per cent., but really 2½ a 3½ are the rates at which business is done. Prime paper is snatched up at 4 a 4½ per cent. Good but not prime paper is negotiable at 6 a 7 per cent. Foreign exchange was dull for yesterday's steamer, but rates were well sustained, and drawers seem disposed to insist on outside figures. Bankers' sterling is quoted at 109½ a 109½; commercial do. 109 a 109½; exchange

to insist on outside figures. Bankers sterling is quoted at 109½ a 109½; commercial do. 109 a 109½; exchange on Paris 5.16 a 5.12½; Hamburg 36½ a 36½; Amsterdam 41½ a 41½; Bremen 79 a 79½. The exports of specio from this port for the week ending yesterday (July 10th), were as follows:

July 10, steamer Ariel, Bremen English silve 53.00 Total for the week..... Total since January 1st.....

The stock market was decidedly firmer, and more ani-The stock noarcet was decidedly armer, and more animated at a general advance in prices. The business was large, particularly in State stocks and western railroad shares. The closing prices of the leading speculative shares were as follows: New York Central, 84½; Eric, 18½; Reading, 46½; Michigan Central, 59½; Michigan southern, 22½; Galena and Chicago, 87½; Cleveland and Toledo, 34½; Chicago and Rock Island, 75½; and Panama, 1041. 14. The flour market was inactive. Wheat was droopin

and lower. Corn was firm and scarce for southern. Pork was firm. Beef in active demand and steady. Cotton was firm, with sales of over 3,000 bales at 12; cents for

NUMBER OF	Custom-house.	- Sub-treasury,	
	Receipts.	Receipts.	Payments.
July 5 (holiday		ACCURATION AND	· 经格点。
July 6		\$225,492.02	\$595,787 46
July 7	121,437 25	279,300 70	309,882 02
July 8	151,527 60	158,520 23	138,365 64
faly 9	172,641 22	382,433 41	497,698 28
July 10	116,916 67	120,524 25	102,386 38
Total for the week 647,028 66 1,165,278 61 Balance in sub-treasury on the morning of July 6			1,644,118 69 5,819,988 97
AND DESIGNATION			4,175,870 29
Add receipts	1,166,376 61		
Total coin and bullion in sub-treasury			5,342,246 90
(45) (588) (52)			ADSUM

TREASURY DEPARTMENT.

Comptroller's Office, May 26, 1858.

Size: I beg leave, respectfully, to call your attention to the fact, that by reason of the practice still existing to a certain extent in your office of adjusting United States ministers' and other accounts, where losses by exchange are claimed, according to the silver standard of value of the foreign coins in which the proceeds of drafts are received, and also by estimating the disbursements of our ministers for contingent expenses by the same rule, a considerable amount of labor is imposed upon this office, in consequence of its being obliged, under the decision of the late Secretary of the Treasury of 7th January, 1857, since approved by his successor, (see circular letter of that date addressed to yourself,) to estimate the foreign currency in which the proceeds of the drafts of our foreign agents are received at its relative value in our gold coinage, (see table of foreign coins, with their value in United States currency, gold valuation, furnished the department by the Director of the United States Mint, copies of which are in your office,) and thereby rendering it incumbent upon the accounting officers here, in the revision of your reports, to change the allowances, make additional statement of differences, &c., &c.

As an example, I may refer to the final account of per your report 17,009. The net proceeds of his drafts upon which losses by exchange are claimed were received in florins, which are estimated by him, and allowed in the adjustment of the account in your office, at 40½ cents per florin, showing an alleged loss by exchange on all of \$105.93. Whereas, by the gold standard, the florin or guilder, as per table referred to, is worth 41.4-10 cents; and estimating the net proceeds of his drafts at that rate, he realized a gain of \$6.85, with which he has been charged, and the whole of his claim for loss has, of course, been disallowed.

With the object of facilitating the labors of this office, and also of making the action of the departmen

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant, W. MEDILL, Comptroller

Hon. MURRAY McConnet., Fifth Auditor of the Treasury.

TREASURY DEFARIMENT,
Fifth Auditor's Office, May 27, 1858.

DEAR SIR: I herewith send you a copy of a table showing the value of the foreign coin therein mentioned. I desire to be informed by an official order from you, as the head of the Treasury Department, if, in making up the accounts of foreign ministers, consuls, and other agents of the government resident abroad, who receive for drafts drawn for their salaries and disbursement the kind of coin mentioned in this table, whether those ministers, consuls, &c., are to be charged the rates of value set down in said table for said foreign coins, notwithstanding the acts of Congress now in force may fix a different value upon said coin. Whatever order you may make upon this subject shall be adhered to in my office in settling said accounts.

The object in requesting this order is to bring about a

said accounts.

The object in requesting this order is to bring about a uniformity of action, and establish the same rule in both this and the Comptroller's office upon this subject. All of which is respectfully submitted for your consideration.

With great respect, your obedient servant, MURRAY McCONNEL, Auditor Hon. Howell Conn, Secretary of the Treasury.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, Comptroller's Office, June 28, 1858.

Comptreller's Office, June 28, 1858.

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the reference to this office of the letter of Hon. M. McConnel, Fifth Auditor of the Ireasury, of the 27th ult., covering a table of the value of foreign coins, and inquiring whether, "in making up the accounts of foreign ministers, and other officers of the government resident abroad, who receive for their drafts, for salary and disbursements, the foreign coins mentioned in the table, they are to be charged the rates of value fixed in the table, notwithstanding the acts of Congress now in force may fix a different value upon said coins."

After consulting the President of the United States, the Committees of Finance of the Senate and of Ways and Means of the House of Representatives, and obtaining the consent and written approval of Mr. Marcy, the then Secretary of State, as will be seen by the enclosed letters marked A and B, your immediate predecessor, Mr. Secretary Guthrie, addressed a circular to the said Auditor, directing "that the salaries of foreign ministers, when paid at the Treasury of the United States, shall be paid as all other officers whose salaries are fixed by law—in the standard gold coinage of the United States; and when paid or received, by means of drafts or otherwise, in foreign countries where they are accredited, located, and paid, they shall be entitled to payment in a gold or silver currency of equal value to the gold coinage paid at the United States Treasury." Some objection having been raised to the application of this circular to the transactions of the past, the subject was brought to your notice shortly after your accession to office, and in your letter to the Comptroller, of May 16th, 1857, you say, "the instructions of my predecessor, referred to, are predicated upon existing laws, and must govern in cases prior to their date, as well as subsequent. You will, therefore, in deciding upon the adjustment of the accounts of foreign ministers, consuls, and commercial agents of the United States, recognise t

which was prepared by the director of the mint at my request, and which was furnished by me to that officer for his information and guidance in carrying out the regulation aforesaid. It exhibits the true value of the various foreign coins, in which our ministers and other public functionaries residing abroad usually receive the proceeds of their deafts, and consequently, in the first instance, their salaries as compared with the gold coinage of the United States. Accounts continued to be transmitted by the Auditor to this office for revision which had been settled on the basis of the old silver dollar, and in which the minister was credited with and allowed for losses, when, under the provisions of the order aforesaid, and which seemed to me to be peremptory in its character, he had actually realized a gain.

I am not qure that I know to what "acts of Congress now in force" the Auditor refers, and which seem to have created some little obstacle in his mind to a compliance with a measure that had been maturely considered, and which had received the unqualified sanction of almost every department of the government. I do know, however, that there are no laws now in force which conflict with, or in any way forbid the execution by the accounting officers of, the regulation or circular in question. Indeed, there never was any act passed by Congress, so far as I know or am able to ascertain, which fixes the value of foreign coins, as compared with the rold columns of the United States. execut in the single

Congress, so far as I know or am able to ascertain, which fixes the value of foreign coins, as compared with the gold coinage of the United States, except in the single instance of the sovereign or pound sterling of Great Britain. Congress, at various times, it is true, made certain foreign coins a legal tender in the payment of debts, and fixed their value as compared with the old silver dollar, which, if not obsolete, has entirely disappeared from our currency; but even these acts have been made to yield to the present financial policy of the government, and are no longer in force.

A brief examination of the different laws making certain foreign coins current in the United States, and fix-

A brief examination of the different laws making certain foreign coins current in the United States, and fixing their value, an abstract of which I have prepared, and herewith submit, marked C, will show that, although a great change in the relative value of our gold and silver coinage was made by the act of 1837, by which our silver coinage became intrinsically and commercially more valuable than our gold coinage, no immediate change was made, either by the law or the practice at the treasury, in estimating the value of the foreign silver coins known to our commerce; but the same was still change was mare, etter by the taw of the placeter at treasury, in estimating the value of the foreign silver coins known to our commerce; but the same was still estimated according to their relative value to our silver

Thus the act of March 3, 1843, makes the gold currency of France current in the United States at about \$3.86 to the 20 francs, or 19.3 cents to the franc. The act of July 27, 1842, made the pound sterling worth \$4.84. Each of these estimats is based upon the relative value of the foreign currency to our gold coinage. But in the same act of 1843 the five-franc piece (silver) is made current in the United States at 93 cents, or 18.6 cents to the franc. If, therefore, the government paid ademand in the gold currency of France or Great Britain, the amount paid would not be essentially different from what it would have been if paid in our gold coinage, but if paid in the silver currency of France at the above rate, nearly four per cent. more would be given out than would have been given if the payment had been made in the gold coinage of the United States, or the gold coinage of either Great Britain or France.

the gold comage of the United States, or the gold comage of either Great Britain or France.

The very object of the act of 1837 was to keep gold in the country, and make it the standard or common currency of the country; and although gold or silver were each a legal tender, it was the privilege of the debtor to

FOREIGN COINS.—THE CURRENCY OF THE choose which he would use, and the creditor could no object that the tender selected was less valuable to him object that the tender selected was less valuable to him than another, which was also authorized and made cur-

rent by law.

It will be observed that, under the former laws and

object that the tender selected was less valuable to him than another, which was also authorized and made current by law.

It will be observed that, under the former laws and practice of the department, the right of the government to discharge its pecuriary obligations in the gold coinage was waived only in the case of foreign chaimants, or creditors residing abroad, while it was strictly claimed in all other cases. Nor was the practice uniform in paying foreign demands, for whenever the government paid a demand in pounds sterling, the pound was not estimated according to its relative value in silver, but approximated the gold standard. Hence, in paying our minister at London his annual salary, the amount paid did not materially differ from the amount he would have received at the treasury, while so long as we paid our minister at Paris in francs, estimating them as silver francs, and not as gold, we paid nearly four per cent. more to him than to the minister at London, although their salaries were fixed by law at the same amount.

Of course, the object intended by the act of 1837 was accomplished. Gold remained in the country, and became the universal currency. Silver left the country, and its coinage became unprofitable. To remedy this the act of 1853 was passed, providing for the colonage of silver pieces under one dollar, so reduced in weight as greatly to diminish their intrinsic value, and thereby keep them in the country for the purposes of change and domestic trade. After this the old silver coinage became almost obsolete, except for particular purposes, and in relatively small amounts. The silver dollar of the old standard ceased, in a great degree, to be coined, and is no longer regarded as forming any portion of our circulation. To speak, therefore, of this obsolete and disused coinage as the sonitar of our come plansibility to the proposition of foreign coins are served to give some plansibility to the proposition of foreign coins are payed to be paid in such currency at those rates.

I think that I

regarded as forming any exception to this general allegation.

The remaining inquiry is, how shall we now ascertain the value of the foreign coins in which our ministers and other officers abroad receive their salaries and other demands upon the government of the United States? This is answered by the law, which provides that it shall be ascertained by actual essays made by the Director of the Mint, and communicated in his annual reports to the Secretary of the Treasury. These assays are now the only authorized estimates of value known to our laws.

The table in question was prepared with great care, and forms a more convenient reference for the accounting officers than the annual report of the Director of the Mint to the Secretary of the Treasury. It is chiefly confined to the normal or unitary moneys of the several countries where our ministers and other representatives of the government are required to reside, while the report, which is more general in its objects, embraces the values of all denominations of coin, primary and subsidiary, of all the nations of the world. The values, of course, are the same in both.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. MEDILL, Comptroller.

Hon. Howell Com,

Hon. Howell Coss, Secretary of the Treasury.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
July 6, 1858.
Sin: Your letter of 29th May, asking our official order that, in settling the accounts of ministers, consuls, and other agents of the United States serving abroad, whether the values of foreign coin stated in the table prepared at the mint at the instance of the Comptroller shall be adhered to, notwithstanding the acts of Congress now in force may fix a different value upon such coins, was received and referred to the Comptroller for his report thereon.

thereon.

I herewith enclose that report of 28th ultimo, by which it appears the hypothetical suggestion in your letter can have no practical application, as all the acts of Congress making foreign coins a legal tender in payment at any

making foreign coins a legal tender in payment at any rate have been repealed.

The order of my predecessor, sanctioned by the President, copies of which are sent by the comptroller, requires that all payments to the ministers and consuls of the United States abroad shall be computed according to the standard value of the gold coinage of the United States. This order was expressly confirmed by me on 16th May, 1857. When it becomes necessary to take into computation any denomination of foreign coin which appears to bear different intrinsic values, that which is most favorable to the United States, the party on whom appears to bear different intrinsic values, that which is most favorable to the United States, the party on whom the burden of payment falls, should be adopted, in accordance with the general rule on that subject, and in all such cases the value reported by the Director of the Mint must guide the accounting officers.

It is not improbable that the rates given by various

acts of Congress to foreign coin for the computation of ad calorem rates of duty, brought together on pages 273 and 274 of the Instructions to Consuls, may have misled some of those officers in making out their claims for compensations, but it cannot be necessary to apprise you that such arbitrary values, fixed by law for an entirely different purpose, can have no bearing on the actual different purpose, can have no bearing on the actual different purpose, can have no bearing on the activation of such coins as currency.

Very respectfully,

HOWELL CORB,

Secretary of the Treasury M. McConnet, Fifth Auditor.

Table of Fureign Coins, with their equivalents in United States Currency gold exclusion, prepared at the request of the Comptroller of the Dear ury, November, 1887.

Austria	Specie dellar	Silver	1.02.5
Do	Florin	Do.,	61.2
Brazil.	Milreis	Do	1.02.5
Belgluni*	Franc.	Gold	19.2
Do	Do	Silver	19.6
Bremen	Rix dollar	Money of account .	75.0
Buenos Ayres	Doubloon	Gold	15 50.0
Central America	Dollar	Silver	1.00.0
Chili	Do., old	f 2	1.00.0
Do	Do., new	Do.	08.2
China	Taol	Money of account	1.48.0
Denmark	Specie daler	Bilver	1 10 7
Do	Rigs-bank daler.	Pa	55.3
England	Pound sterling.	Gold	4.84.8
Frances	Franc	Do.,	19.2
Do	20 franc piece.	Gold, being	3.84.0
Do	Franc	Silver	19.6
Germany, north	Thaler.	Do	72.0
Do. south	Plorin	Do	41.7
Hamburg	Mare-banco	Money of account	37.0
India	Rupee	Silver.	40 0
D6	Star pagoda	Gold	1 31 0
Lombardy	Lica	Silver	17.1
Mexico	Dollar	Do	1.00.2
Naples	Scudo	Do	1.00.5
Do.	Carlin.	Do	07.6
Do	Ouzia, (ounce)	Gold.	2.48 0
Do	Ducat	Money of account	53.0
Netherlands	Gullder	Silver	41.4
Norway	Specie daler	Do	1 10.7
Peru.	Dollar, new	Do	95.0
Do	Do., old	Do	1.06.0
Portugal	Milreis	Do	1, 18, 0
Prussia	Thaier	Do	72.0
Hame	Soude	Do	1.06.0
Reports	Houble	Do	79.4
Sardiola.	Franc or live.	Do	19.6
Spain.	Real vellon	Do	05.0
Do	New doubloon	Gold	4, 96, 3
Do	New Peninsula dol.	Silved, (pese of 20	10000
Water make make	lar	reals)	1 01.5
Sweden	Specie daler	Silver	1.11.4
Turkey	Plastre	Gold or allver	04 4
Tuscany	Florin.	Silver.	27.7
THE RESERVE OF THE PERSON	THE RESERVE OF THE PARTY OF THE	MALE RESIDENCE AND COLOR	1000

*The actual currency of both those countries is gold, and comptions are of course made in reference to that medium. Like United States, they have the double standard, but silver only citates for small change, and its value cannot be regarded in oputing pecuniary obligations.